Review of the Working of the Schools for the Blind

34. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have undertaken any review of the working of the schools for the blind in various parts of the country to know the deficiencies if any, in the matter of teaching facilities, books and living conditions ; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the measures taken by Government to improve their functioning ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) The schools for the blind are severally run by the voluntary agencies and some by the State Governments. Government has not undertaken a review of the working of the schools of the blind in various parts of the country.

(b) However, to enable handicapped students, particularly the blind, to receive education the following facilities are offered by the Central Government :—

(1) Scholarships are given to all handicapped students to pursue education beyond class IX in schools and in degree and post-graduate courses. Scholarships are also available to pursue medical and engineering education and for in-plant training.

(2) Financial assistance is provided by the Ministry of Welfare to voluntary organisations for providing education and vocational training for handicapped students including the blind.

(3) The National Institute for Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, manufactures special equipments for the blind like braille slates, abacus and other educational material for free distribution to blind students through voluntary organisations or states Governments.

(4) The Central Government had provided funds to set up braille presses throughout the country to produce braille books for distribution to blind students.

(5) The National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Dehradun, conducts training programmes for secondary school and primary school teachers of the blind.

(6) The Ministry of Education implements a programme of Integrated Education for the blind through the State Governments. Under the Scheme selected schools are assisted with resource rooms, special teachers, etd. to help blind students in their education.

(7) Under-the-Aids and Appliances Scheme this Ministry provides educational Kits, braille measuring devices, braille writers and tape recorders for certain categories of blind students free of cost or at subsdised rates depending on the family income of the blind students.

Chambal Command Area Development, Rajasthan

35. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the work on the Chambal Command Area Development in Rajasthan, whch was started with the aid of World Bank has stopped ;

(b) of so, what are the reasons therefor ; and